Dharmapuri district have estimated a potential reserve of 67,095 tonnes of gold ore with 1.03 g/t of gold. Placer gold is found in the alluvial deposits of Ponnaiyar and Paar river systems draining the Kolar Gold fields.

(c) The copper and gold deposits located so far have not been found to be economically viable for exploitation. The exploitation of mica is mostly in private sector.

**National Conference on Agriculture**

2344. SHRI DHARMANNA MONDAYYA SADUL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a National Conference on Agriculture for Rabi campaign 1991-92 was held in New Delhi;

(b) if so, the suggestions made at the Conference; and

(c) the follow-up action taken by the Government to implement the suggestions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During the National Conference on Agriculture for Rabi Campaign, it was observed that there was likely to be a shortfall in the production of kharif foodgrains 1991 from the targeted level. The discussions during the National Conference on Agriculture for Rabi Campaign were basically directed towards evolving the requisite strategies to make up the losses suffered in kharif foodgrains during 1991 and also to attain rabi targets 1991-92. The measures/ programmes and the thrust areas as suggested after discussion with the State Governments are detailed hereunder:-

(i) Additional coverage of area under rabi crops, more particularly in areas which were left fallow during the kharif seasons.

(ii) Sowings of early/short duration crops under rainfed conditions without disturbing the normal winter crop pattern.

(iii) Timely showings of regular winter crop to attain higher productivity.

(iv) To work out a reservoir action plan in respect of major and medium irrigation sources and to finalise the irrigation schedule, so that irrigation water could be provided at critical stages of crop growth.

(v) Larger area coverage under rabi/ summer rice in the States of West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Assam and Orissa.

(vi) Preparation of action plan for covering the the additional irrigated area to be developed during the current year. The States of U.P. and Bihar were requested to pay special attention to the development of area under tube-wells and bamboo borings under the assistance to small and marginal farmers programme.

(vii) Uninterrupted supply of power for irrigation an adequate availability of diesel for agricultural purposes.

(viii) Special emphasis under SFPP (Wheat) on selected components with reference to the constraints prevailing in different States.

(ix) Special efforts to cover more area under rabi maize in the States of Bihar and eastern U.P.

(x) Greater emphasis was laid for improving plant protection measures, increased overall availability of certified/improved varieties of seeds and fertilisers, expansion of National Watershed Development Programme in rainfed areas; easy and adequate availability of credit alongwith effective extension support for sustainable development in agriculture.

(c) The progress of the above strategy programme implementation is being monitored/reviewed periodically by the Crop Weather Watch Group headed by Additional Secretary in the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation. Officers have also visited the States to review the progress on the spot and provide necessary assistance for removing constraints, if any. Meetings and discussions, have also been arranged with State Government officials, particularly in North-East, Eastern as well as North-West States to review their requirements and progress.

[*Translation*]

**Opening of Petrol/Diesel Outlets in Hilly Districts of Uttar Pradesh**

2345. SHRI BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria adopted for opening of diesel and petrol retail outlets in hilly districts of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) whether Pauri and Chamoli districts have the required number of petrol and diesel retail outlets in accordance with this criteria;

(c) if not, whether there is any proposal for opening of more diesel retail outlets in the said two districts; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR): (a) to (d). There are 10 retail outlets in Pauri and 5 retail outlets in Chamoli districts of U.P. New petrol/diesel retail outlets are opened in different places as per Marketing Plans, availability of products, etc. There is no separate criteria for opening retail outlets in hilly areas.

**Subarnarekha Multi-Purpose Project**

2346. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the present stage of the Subarnarekha Multi-purpose Project in Bihar; and

(b) the time by which it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) and (b). A statement giving the progress of work on various components of the Subarnarekha Multi-purpose se Project and the schedule of completion is attached.